

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for scanning a photographic film using a scanner, comprising the steps of:
 - performing a pre-scan of the film;
 - sampling a color density of at least one location of the film;
 - comparing the color density to a standard range indicating an orange bias for the at least one location; and
 - setting the scanner to treat the film as a negative if the color density is within the standard range and to otherwise treat the film as a positive.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the standard range is a mix of red, green, and blue in relative proportions, in an 8-bit system, the red is greater than approximately 150; the green is greater than approximately 75; and the blue is less than approximately 50.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the color density is determined for each of red, green and blue.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the color density for each of the red, green and blue is averaged for the red, green and blue, respectively, for each of the at least one locations and the average is employed in the step of comparing.

PATENT APPLICATION

1 5. A method of scanning a photographic film using a scanner, comprising the
2 step of determining, automatedly, whether the film is a positive or a
3 negative.

1 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of controlling the
2 scanner to properly scan the film based on the determination of the positive
3 or negative.

PATENT APPLICATION

1 7. A system for distinguishing between positive film and negative film, the
2 films exhibit a red, a green, and a blue illumination characteristic,
3 comprising:
4 a scanner, including a sensor operable to detect the red, the green, and
5 the blue;
6 an analog output from the sensor indicative of the red, the green, and
7 the blue;
8 an analog-to-digital converter, connected to the sensor, for receiving
9 the analog output;
10 a digital output from the analog-to-digital converter, connected to the
11 analog-to-digital converter;
12 a microprocessor system, including a microprocessor and a memory,
13 connected to the digital output;
14 a logic module, connected to the microprocessor system, wherein the
15 logic module determines relative densities of the red, the green, and the
16 blue; and
17 a control connection, connected to the microprocessor system and the
18 scanner, reactive to relative densities determination by the logic module in
19 order to control the scanner.

1 8. The system of claim 7, wherein the logic module compares the relative
2 densities to determine that the film is negative film, if the relative densities
3 in an 8-bit system are:
4 red greater than approximately 150;
5 green greater than approximately 75; and
6 blue less than approximately 50; and
7 the control connection signals the scanner to treat the film as negative film.

PATENT APPLICATION

1 9. A scanner system for digitizing a film, comprising:
2 a sensor system operable to detect a characteristic of the film;
3 a control system operable to set control functions in response to the
4 characteristic.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the characteristic is selected from the
2 group consisting of:
3 positive and negative.

1 11. The method of claim 9, wherein the characteristic is an orange bias.

1 12. The method of claim 9, wherein the characteristic comprises a film
2 identification tag.

continued on next page

PATENT APPLICATION

- 1 13. A method for digitizing a film, comprising the steps of:
- 2 detecting, automatedly, a characteristic of the film;
- 3 scanning the film; and
- 4 adjusting, automatedly, the step of scanning based on the characteristic.
- 1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the characteristic is indicative of a type
- 2 of the film and the step of adjusting varies the step of scanning to conform
- 3 to the type.

PATENT APPLICATION

1 15. A system for digitizing a film having a characteristic, comprising:
2 an automated detector of the characteristic; and
3 a controller, connected and responsive to the automated detector.

1 16. The system of claim 15, further comprising:
2 an optical digitizer, connected to the controller;
3 wherein the optical digitizer is controlled by the controller.